

July 12, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR : S/LPD - John Scafe  
FROM : USIA/EU - John F. Kordek  
SUBJECT : USIA Efforts in Explaining and Promoting U.S.  
Policy toward Central America in Europe  
REFERENCE : Your request of July 10

SUMMARY

Following is a sampling of the broad range of activities in which our posts in Europe are engaged to explain and promote U.S. policy toward Central America.

Information Distribution

In our effort to clarify and promote the USG position on Central America, posts have translated as well as written articles and policy position papers for distribution. USIS Bonn has translated several articles and published them in "Amerika Dienst," the post's weekly German-language publication. USIS Madrid distributed a Spanish version of the pamphlet "The Soviet/Cuban Connection in Central America and the Caribbean." Under the PAO's signature, USIS Brussels prepared French and Dutch-language versions of a paper outlining USG initiatives. This paper has been sent to those Belgians who write critically of US policy or who are seeking a fuller explanation of our views.

PAO's have also defended the US position and clarified misinformation in foreign media. For example, in Denmark the IO sent a letter of rebuttal to charges of pro-Sandinista "Peace Guards" in a letter published in a Communist Party daily. The PAO in Denmark wrote to a local television station criticizing the content of a documentary on Central America. He also wrote a letter to the editor of Politiken listing US foreign policy objectives toward Nicaragua and a follow-up letter explaining the role of anti-Sandinistas and rejecting the Afghanistan/Nicaragua comparison.

## Parachute Distribution

EU posts have distributed the following USG publications:

- "Central American Information Kit II."
- "Misconceptions About US Policy Toward Nicaragua."
- "Commandante Arce's Secret Speech."
- "Soviet-Cuban Connection in Central America and the Caribbean."
- "The Nicaraguan Peace Process: A Documentary Record."
- "The Sandinista Military Build-up."
- "In a Place Without a Soul: Cuban Political Prisoners."
- "Sustaining a Consistent Policy in Central America - One Year After the National Bipartisan Commission Report."

## Speakers - via Electronic Media and Live

Ambassador Motley's April 16 WORLONET to European posts, Ambassador Reich's April 17 electronic dialogue with Norwegian media, youth and government officials and Ambassador Schifter's WORLONET interactive to European countries addressing human rights issues in the Caribbean served the need to put senior policymakers directly in touch with key European audiences. (The post in Brussels invited two representatives from a human rights commission primarily based in Managua to sit in on the interactive with Amb. Schifter.) Several former US Ambassadors to Central American countries have visited EU posts as AMPARTS over the past six months. Several political officers have also volunteered to speak to groups outside the capital cities on these issues following the conference in Central America. For example, in France, Sharon Weiner spoke in Lyon and Grenoble and Adrian Basora spoke in Dijon on Central American policy.

Documentation and backgrounding provided on a continual basis by the Wireless File have also enabled posts to use their own personnel effectively for public speaking on Central American issues. For instance, in the FRG the DPAO, IO and several BPAOs have all been out on the stump this year in support of our policies.

## Wireless File and Publications Use

Our programming effort on Central American issues relies heavily on policy statements sent to the field via the Wireless File and in the form of special publications for dissemination to specific audiences. Since January of this year, the European Wireless File has transmitted 212 items on Central American policy. This material is distributed to media, academic, government and area specialists on a regular basis. For example, USIS Madrid sends a weekly package of WF material to Spanish editors. Madrid also picks up items in Spanish from the AR File, removes South Americanisms, and distributes them to its special Central American issues list. USIS Ottawa has developed an insiders' short list of influential media and government people who value our policy material and make use of the information we provide through the Wireless File. All the posts use WF material to help answer the high volume of mail received by our missions on Central American issues.

## Press-Related Activities

In addition to Wireless File dissemination our posts provide facilitative assistance to foreign media and work at maintaining an open flow of communication. Several posts have hosted luncheons and breakfasts for journalists at which Central American issues have been discussed. All our posts distribute publications on Central America to editors of leading newspapers on a regular basis. For example, in Norway a resource book on the Contadora process was sent to the editor of Aftenposten. (This same book was sent to Geir Langland of the Progressive Party.) Our posts have also set up newspaper and radio interviews for embassy officers and special speakers, such as UN Ambassador Vernon Walters, to address questions regarding Central America.

In late April, political officers from European posts visited Central American countries as PAOs had done earlier. Since their return, these embassy officers have served as valuable resource persons whom posts have called on to brief host country journalists on US Central America policy. This has been especially effective in cases of European journalists preparing to travel to the area.

## Successor Generation Programming

USIS Posts have been directing articles, information and speakers specifically to student groups in an attempt to address some of the concerns of the more skeptical younger generation. In Belgium, in connection with the Pope's visit, USIS officers had direct contact

with students and professors defending "liberation theology" as a counterweight to measures the US has taken in Central America. The Munich BPAO delivered two formal lectures and met informally with two student groups on Latin American policy, the ABPAO in Munich has also spoken several times with student groups. In Norway, USIS Oslo sent a collection of material on Central America and the Caribbean Basin Initiative to the Norwegian Conservative Students Association for use in their publication "Democracy in Latin America." The IO in Copenhagen spoke on US foreign policy objectives toward Nicaragua to students from Odense University.

### International Visitors and Voluntary Visitors

The International and Voluntary Visitors programs have enabled us to reach the European public on an individual basis. The Agency has hosted two European Regional IV projects since January. Approximately thirty Europeans participated in the "Foreign Policy Process" and "US Issues on Arms Control" conferences. Both conferences included Latin American policy issues on their agendas. The Agency has also arranged programs focusing on Central America for individual international visitors.

Many delegations visiting through the Voluntary Visitor program are sent to briefings by the White House Outreach Working Group on Central America.

### Conference Support

Posts in Madrid and London facilitated the University of Miami-sponsored conferences on Central America which took place in late June. Independent of this effort, USIS Lisbon facilitated a Portuguese Socialist Party-sponsored conference on Central America in Lisbon, also in June. USIS Ottawa was heavily involved in facilitating the travel to Canada of Pedro Joaquín Chamorro June 6-7 to participate in a full schedule of meetings and briefings, including meetings with the Quebec Federation of Journalists and the Canadian Parliamentary Center for International Affairs.

### Sample of One Post's Programming on Central American Issues

Attached are two memoranda from USIS Bonn, one dated July 12, the other May 31, detailing the post's programming on Central American issues from January to the present. This is one example of the extent and commitment of our USIS posts in Europe to focus on this important foreign policy issue.